

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten title:

C1
ELECTRONIC STILL CAMERA HAVING A STANDBY MODE FOR
REDUCING DELAYS IN IMAGE PICKUP

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C2
This kind of electronic still camera generally takes a quite longer time from when the power is turned on to when operation can be transferred to image pickup or from when a button is operated to when image pickup action can be actually taken while the power is on than a camera using a silver film. The latter time is a so-called release time lag. ~~electronic~~ Electronic still cameras are said to be weak in chances for good pictures because of the long release time lag.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C3
However, in electronic still cameras, the capacity of a battery as a power source which electrically enables all the operations is limited. Consequently, preliminary operations for electric conductance of a stand-by current as described above or image pickup, which shorten the release time lag, are carried out thoughtlessly, the

C3
amt

electric power is consumed ~~awfully~~ wastefully and the battery lifetime is ~~very~~ shortened greatly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C4

In general, there are various ways in which a user holds a camera in ~~case~~ instances where the user does not particularly have an intention to make an image pickup operation. In this case, it is considered that a plurality of detection means provided dispersedly at different positions of the camera rarely detect simultaneously contact or approach of a hand of the user. In contrast, in case where a user holds a camera with an intention to take a picture, the plurality of detection means detect the contact or approach with a high possibility.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C5

(2) The electronic still camera may A further comprise mode release means for releasing the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup means and a period in which at least one of the plurality of detection means does not detect the contact or approach reaches a predetermined time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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The buffer memory is further connected with a compression/expansion processing section 17 which is connected through a memory communication interface 18 to

*cb
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a memory card 19 as a recording medium for recording image data and data appended thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

c1

When the release switch 25 is thus half pressed, the preliminary operations for image pickup, i.e., the power and/or driving pulse is supplied to the CCD 7 and the processing in the steps S3, S4, and S5 are carried out. When the release switch 25 is full pressed sequentially, the actual image pickup operation (step S7), image processing (step ~~S8~~ S9), and recording (step S8) are carried out. Execution of these operations is not related to whether or not a stand-by mode is set.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

*c8
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As a result of this determination, if the sensor 31 detects a hand of the user, power is supplied to the ~~sensor 32~~ sensors 32 and 33 and then brought into an operational state (step S13). Subsequently, whether or not the sensor 32 detects approach of a hand of the user, i.e., whether or not a hand of the user has come close to the release switch 25 of the camera body 1 is determined (step S14).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the power is supplied to the sensor 33 is electrically conducted and brought into an operational state, and whether or not the sensor 33 detects a hand of

c8
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the user, i.e., whether or not a hand of the user is in contact with the lens mirror cylinder 2 is determined (step S15). ~~As for the~~ The order of the processing of the steps S14 and S15, ~~any of these steps comes earlier~~ is not critical.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

c9

When the release switch 25 is thus half pressed, the preliminary operations for image pickup (steps S3, S4, and S5) are carried out. When the release switch 25 is full pressed sequentially, the actual image pickup operation (step S7), image processing (step S8), and recording (step ~~S8~~ S9) are carried out.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

c10

Otherwise, if it is determined in the step ~~S42~~ S32 that the sensor 32 does not detect contact or approach of a hand of the user, whether or not the power source has been turned off by the main power switch 22 is determined in the step S22. If the power source is not off, i.e., if the power source is kept on, the operation returns to the step S2, and the processing described above is repeated. Otherwise, if the power source is turned off in the step S22, all the processing ends (step S23).
